

Saving the Environment: What it Takes

“It’s not what you can do for the environment, but what the environment can do for you.” Casey Lyons glanced continuously at her paper trying to muster up the words of courage that would help her continue with her speech. After a few minutes and a toss of her honey blond hair, she added, “There is always an opportunity to help make the world a better place. The environment is what keeps us alive. We need to preserve the environment so that generations from now, our children, grandchildren even, will be able to live and breathe fresh air. Remember, saving the environment cannot be done with just one person it takes a whole community. Thankyou.”

As she stepped down from the podium in the cramped musty auditorium, she couldn’t help but overhear the snickers from the others in the back. Mr. Wayward stooped and pulled on his ancient patent leather tie and called the next student to give their speech on “Doing My Part for the Environment.” Casey walked through the double doors that were bolded in red, EXIT and stepped into the hazy late Alabama sun.

Looking around her neighborhood Casey saw what her parents thought as, “The best place to live.” She passed a white four-door Chevy Silverado that threw many candy wrappers and soda bottles out of its window. Casey turned around and picked up the trash and threw it away in a nearby trashcan. “Why do people do that? Don’t they realize that what they do can affect the lives of

many wildlife and destroy the ecosystem?” Casey thought to herself. The thought of people throwing litter out of their car window and harming many animals, just made Casey sick. She thought back to what her counselor at Camp Enviro had told her as she and Casey sat at the table for evening supper...

“The Three Keys to preserving the environment: First, alert the community of the problem. Next, practice saving electricity, recycling and other healthy acts to encourage others to do the same. Finally, make a difference, it does not matter what you do as long as you just do it. I believe in you Casey...” Casey returned to her family’s uptown three-bedroom condominium and began to take out the bottles and paper to carry to the recycling bin. What her counselor had told her had improved her life and made her happier than she had ever been.

The next day at school, she noticed something different. Everywhere she turned her head she saw what she thought as make-shift recycling bins and trash cans. Her speech had made a difference! You can do the same to if you take the time to help take better care of the environment. If it is just picking up a candy bar wrapper off of the ground. You can make a difference, and remember, reach out and give the world your special touch, when it comes down to it, you will do your part to help the environment.